

FORM B – BUILDING

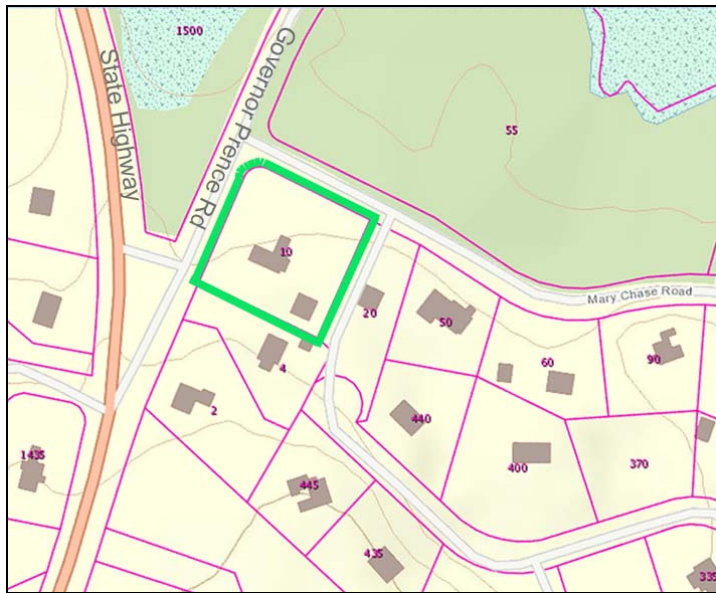
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



View from northwest.

Locus Map (north at top)



Recorded by: Larson Fisher Associates, Inc. with Kathryn Grover

Organization: Eastham Historical Commission

Date: April 2013

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

18-63

ORLEANS

EAS.608

Town/City: Eastham

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): South Eastham

Address: 10 Mary Chase Road

Historic Name: Ezekiel & Rachel Doane House

Uses: Present: single-family residence

Original: single-family residence

Date of Construction: pre-1858 (ca. 1830)

Source: historic maps, visual analysis

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone & brick

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard/wood shingles & metal clapboard

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: 30'x30' open shed

Major Alterations (*with dates*): rear ell (c. 1850); 1-story wing off left (north) side & gabled dormer c. 1880; 2nd story addition to left side wing (c. 1970)

Condition: altered

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: .84 acre

Setting: The subject property is located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Governor Prentice and Mary Chase roads. It is bordered by single family residential properties on the east and south and by open space and wetlands on the north.

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The main section of this early house reflects the Greek Revival style with its pedimented front gable roof, large corner pilasters and simple trabeated door surround with 8-light transom and 5-light sidelights. Based on this visual analysis, the building appears to be older than the 1880 date ascribed by the Assessor. However, inspection of interior finishes and construction details would be needed to determine a more accurate date. In the meantime a construction date of ca. 1830 is suggested. The front facade is three bays wide with the door at the left side. This oldest/original section has a large brick center chimney. It appears that a portion of the recessed left (north) side ell is original due to its dressed stone foundation, probably having served as a kitchen/service wing. This section has been greatly expanded to the north (section with brick foundation) and later with a second story. There is also a rear ell which has a fieldstone foundation and thus was an early addition; it too has been expanded both out and upward and now has an exterior brick rear wall chimney.¹ (See photos below.) A wall dormer on the backside is angled between the rear and left side ell; it contains a sliding glass door at the second level that gives out onto a wood balcony. A French door is located on the first floor below the balcony which provides access to an angled wood deck; a wood exterior stairway provides access between the balcony and deck. A bulkhead is located north of the rear deck to give access to the basement under the northerly portion of the left ell addition (that with the brick foundation).

Many of the windows have been replaced, but there are still a few 8-over-8 sash that could be original as well as a few authentic wood window blinds. The three-part window in the attic level of the front pediment appears to have been an early alteration (possible late 19th century or early 20th century). An octagonal window in the gable end of the left wing, at the attic level, is a much more recent addition. The house has a variety of sidings—wood clapboard on the front facade and wood shingles on the sides of the earliest section. The rear ell and left side wing have a clapboard style metal siding.

A detached 30-foot by 30-foot open shed or carport located behind and south of the house was constructed in 2003.² It is accessed via an unpaved driveway off Governor Prence Road that runs along the current south boundary. A fenced garden occupies the lawn north and west of the house. Although the subject property is now a little less than an acre, it faces a large expanse of open space to the north and west, with a stream running through it and wetland, giving the sense of the much larger property it was in earlier times. Numerous mature trees and shrubs are contained within the property, many lining the south edge of the driveway.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

This property was evidently part of a 200-acre tract that was owned by Governor Thomas Prence, the fourth Governor of Plymouth Colony, and the person for which Governor Prence Road (which the property fronts) is named.

The fourth governor of the colony of New Plymouth, was Thomas Prence, who was a native of Lechlade, a small parish in Gloucestershire, England, on the north side of the river Thames, where his father and grandfather resided. He was born in the year 1600... Mr. Prence came to America in 1621, in the ship *Fortune*, which arrived at New Plymouth in November, being at that time in the twenty-second year of his age...In 1643, we find Mr. Prence actively engaged in promoting a new settlement at Nauset, or Eastham...A committee, at the head of which was Mr. Prence, was now sent to Nauset, to make examination...They purchased...the contiguous lands, belonging to the natives...Mr. Prence and his associates now obtained a grant of lands at Nauset, and went resolutely forward with their new plantation... On the death of Governor Bradford, in 1657, Mr. Prence was chosen his successor [and] He was accordingly annually chosen to the chief magistracy, from this time forward, for sixteen years, until his death, which occurred in 1673.

Governor Prence died at his residence in Eastham, 29 March, 1673,* in the 73d year of his age. His remains were brought to Plymouth, and, on the 8th of April following, honorably interred among the fathers on Burial Hill.

Governor Prence was twice married. His only son Thomas, went to England young, married there, and soon after died...His eldest daughter Rebecca, was married to Edmund Freeman, Jr. of Sandwich. These were the children of Patience Brewster, a daughter of the venerable William Brewster, to whom Governor Prence was married in 1624. By his second wife, Mary, who was the daughter of William Collier, one of the assistants, formerly a London merchant, and to whom he was married in 1635, he was the father of seven daughters, viz: Mary, married to John Tracy of Duxbury; Elizabeth, to Arthur Howland of Duxbury; Judith, to Isaac Barker of Duxbury; Hannah, to Nathaniel Mayo, of Eastham; Jane, to Mark Snow of Eastham; Sarah, to Jeremiah Howes of Yarmouth; Mercy, to John Freeman of Eastham.³

¹ Town of Eastham records, an undated sketch plan in the building permit records depicts an area along the right (south) side that was to be rebuilt.

² Ibid., building permit dated Sept. 8, 2003.

³ Jacob Bailey Moore, *Lives of Governors of New Plymouth, and Massachusetts Bay* (Gates & Stedman, 1848) pp. 139-174.

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Genealogies indicate that the descendants of Mercy Prence and John Freeman married into the Doane family (also early settlers of the area) and it is likely that an heir of Governor Prence who came into possession of this land built the c. 1830 dwelling. This family connection is apparently germane to the purchase of the subject property by master mariner Ezekiel Doane (1813-90).⁴

An Eastham native, Ezekiel Doane had begun work on a fishing vessel when he was eleven years old and had worked his way up to the mate's position by the time he was nineteen. Two years later he received his first vessel command, and he sailed in the merchant service across the Atlantic until the Mexican War, when as captain of the brig *Chattahoochee* he ran supplies and ammunition through blockades to American troops. When the war ended, Doane began trading with Mexico and is said to have been the first to raise an American flag in a Mexican port after the war. According to one genealogy, Doane then returned to Eastham "and bought the old Governor Prince farm in Eastham, but after two years of land life, he sold out to Moses Eaton, bought the brig *Vande* and returned to the southern trade." Doane took part in the California gold rush in 1849 but again came home, repurchased the Prence farm from Eaton, "and there resided the remainder of his life. His farm was the largest in his neighborhood."⁵ Deeds indicate that Doane made this purchase in April 1851 and that the property had a dwelling house, barn, and other buildings; in 1866 and 1869. Doane bought two other parcels, both with dwelling houses, that bordered this former Prence estate.⁶ The 1856 Barnstable County map, the earliest one to identify dwellings and their owners, shows Doane in this rough location and the house at 10 Mary Chase Road was indicated as his in a 1948 deed that identifies it as the "old homestead" of Ezekiel Doane.

The 1860 census shows Doane as a farmer in a household with his wife Rachel A. Lincoln Doane, whom he married in Boston in 1835, and their children Obadiah, then a twenty-four-year-old mariner, William, Charles, Rachel, Mary, and George; the agricultural census for that year indicates that he owned 45 acres. In 1870 their daughter Georgianna, born in 1848, and son Abelino, born in 1858, were also living in the household. In 1880 Obadiah, Charles, Georgianna, and Abelino were all still living with their parents and by then Ezekiel Doane owned 94 acres of land.

Ezekiel Doane died in 1890, and the 10 Mary Chase Road appears to have passed to his son Abelino, who had married Bessie Wareham of Eastham the year before. The 1910 census shows Abelino as a farmer living with his wife, his unmarried sister Georgianna, and a boarding farm laborer. In 1918 Georgianna Doane died at the age of sixty-nine, and the 1920 census shows Abelino and Betsey Doane in the house with farm laborer Eugene R. Cobb. The 1929 directory shows his address as King's Highway, no doubt because neither Mary Chase Road nor the southern section of Governor Prence Road yet existed.

In 1944 Charles Frederick Moore, the son of Ezekiel Doane's daughter Rachel and her husband Frederick Moore, sold the Doane homestead to Francis Gerald Chase of Canton. Born in the Roxbury section of Boston in 1897, Chase was a machinist and factory foreman who married Mary Agnes Griffin of Canton in 1919; her parents, Thomas J. and Mary Agnes Ruane Griffin, had emigrated from Ireland in 1893. In 1920 the couple lived in Dedham; Francis Chase was a leather factory machinist, while Mary Chase worked as a telephone operator. By 1930 the couple had four children.

Tax records for 1947 show Francis G. Chase with a homestead parcel of 24.8 acres, a house, no doubt this one, valued at \$3000, a three-car garage, and 44 acres in two other parcels. Deeds of the 1940s that describe these three parcels note that only the first of them had buildings and that Abelino Doane had sold off parcels of the homestead property between 1912 and 1936. The same deed states that "Georgianna M. Doane, who had a home in the Old Homestead under the Will of Ezekiel Doane, died unmarried Feb. 1, 1918."⁸

In 1956 Mary Chase sold the Doane homestead and 37,200 square feet of its 24.8-acre lot to Harmon A. and Ernestine V. Smith of Agawam, who sold the parcel two years later to George S. and Mary S. Richards of Plymouth, New Hampshire. The Richards couple owned 10 Mary Chase Road until 1973. The property changed hands three times more and was owned by Seamen's Savings Bank in Provincetown when current owners Louis and Lucy M. Carlsen acquired it in 1990.⁹

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⁴ Thurtle, Ed. *Hereditary Order of Descendants of Colonial Governors* (Genealogical Publishing Co., 2009) p. 138. Also, Enoch Pratt, *History of Eastham, Wellfleet and Orleans, Barnstable Co., Mass from 1644-1844* (1844) pp. 12-18.

⁵ Alfred Alder Doane, comp., *The Doane Family I. Deacon John Doane, of Plymouth; II. Doctor John Doane, of Maryland; and Their Descendants* (Boston: by the compiler, 1902), pp. 315-17. See also Godfrey Sparrow, Harvard, to Ezekiel Doane, 6 September 1843, Barnstable County Registry of Deeds (BCD) 31:439; Ezekiel Doane, master mariner, to Moses F. Eaton, Boston, trader, 7 July 1846, BCD 41:35; Moses F. Eaton, Stoneham, to Ezekiel Doane, Eastham, 7 April 1851, BCD 50:224.

⁶ E. E. Knowles to Ezekiel Doane, 1 November 1866, BCD 93:163; Samuel Freeman, Boston, to Ezekiel Doane, 10 August 1869, BCD 100:258.

⁷ Elmer E. Colligan, Canton, to Mary A. Chase, Canton, 14 January 1948, BCD 686:539.

⁸ Colligan to Chase, BCD 686:539.

⁹ Mary A. Chase, Canton, to Harmon A. and Ernestine V. Smith, Agawam, 19 May 1956, BCD 941:487; Harmon A. and Ernestine V. Smith, Agawam, to George S. and Mary S. Richards, 11 June 1958, BCD 1007:116; George S. and Mary S. Richards, Plymouth NH, to Richard Donald and Stephanie W. Palmer, Sudbury, 12 July 1973, BCD 1898:321; Seamen's Savings Bank, Provincetown, to Louis and Lucy M. Carlsen, Route 6, North Eastham, 2 April 1990, BCD 7120:224.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

(credit Larson Fisher Associates, 2012-2013 unless otherwise noted)



View from southwest.



View from northwest.



View from northeast.